

## Robin Pryor, English, ESL, 2004

### HR Generalist

By: Abigail Raley

*“Once I got into the HR curriculum, it was like I had completed my puzzle”*

Robin Pryor is an HR Generalist at Derby Fabricating Solutions in Louisville, KY and is preparing for her SHRM-CP exam. She attended WKU as an ESL major, graduated in 2004, and attended Sullivan University for her masters degree in Human Resource Leadership in 2017 and obtained that degree in 2020.



Robin Pryor went into her undergraduate degree at Western Kentucky University with the passion of teaching fresh in her mind. She was sure that she wanted to be a teacher as she left WKU and even got a job right out of the gate. “I got a teaching job right away,” Pryor said. “I was shocked.” Pryor went on to teach at Greenwood High School during the 2009/2010 school year, before the position expired due to lack of funding. Pryor then moved back to her hometown of Louisville.

“I ended up lost for a while,” Pryor said. “Finally, when I landed the job at Sullivan University, that was what helped me get off the hamster wheel and get me back on solid ground.” Pryor said that once she got into the HR curriculum, she flourished. Now, she is in her own HR position and excited to look forward.

Pryor always knew she wanted to obtain some form of higher education after her undergraduate degree. “My original plan was to continue with English, get a master’s degree in English, and eventually become a college professor,” Pryor said. When my life veered into another direction, I still knew I wanted to get one more higher education degree.” Pryor later added on jokingly, “A PhD is not on my radar, before you ask.”

Pryor said that, above all, her journalism experience at WKU helped her in preparing for her future career, even though it wasn’t what she was anticipating it would be. She also said that her English literature courses helped her in “development, critical thinking, and analytical skills,” which she uses every day on the job. “At a first glance, you wouldn’t think that English would translate into such a specialized vocation, but using the skills I learned in English, I am able to process policy interpretations and people and put those things together.”

During Pryor's time at WKU, she said that Dr. Angela Jones was one of her biggest influences. Though Pryor was going through some emotional turmoil during her schooling, she said Dr. Jones and the rest of the WKU faculty was able to guide her in order to make the most out of her time at school.

Pryor is looking to stay in the HR field, but she ultimately wants to move upward from her current position. In offering her advice to current English majors, her advice was quite simple "you get what you give. I know that's applicable to just about anything, but specifically English because English requires a lot of thought and reading comprehension. The more you give of yourself, the more you are going to get out of it."